

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An image-forming system comprising:
 - an image-forming device;
 - a first consumable resource configured to be consumed by the device in forming a printed image;
 - an authorization granting interface coupled to the resource and configured based upon authorized users of the resource;
 - a user interface configured to receive authorization input from a prospective user; and
 - a processor in communication with the user interface, wherein the processor is configured to determine if a prospective user is authorized to use the resource based upon the authorization input and interaction with the granting interface, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to remain coupled to unused portions of the consumable resource upon withdrawal of the unused portions of the consumable resource from the image forming device.
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to indicate to the prospective user whether the prospective user is authorized in response to control signals generated by the processor.
3. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the processor is configured to prevent use of the resource by the prospective user when the prospective user is not authorized and to permit use of the resource when the prospective user is authorized.
4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to prevent use of the resource by the prospective user when the prospective user is not authorized and to permit use of the resource when the prospective user is authorized.
5. (Original) The system of Claim 1 including a memory configured to receive and store authorization input.
6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the resource includes a printing material configured to be deposited upon a medium.
7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the printing material comprises an ink.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the printing material includes a toner.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the resource is contained within a cartridge.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the authorization granting interface includes a digital memory coupled to the cartridge.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the authorization granting interface includes a digital memory coupled to the cartridge.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the resource comprises a print medium upon which the printed image is formed.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes at least one of a mouse, a microphone, a keyboard and a stylus.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the device includes an authorization receiving interface having at least one electrically conductive contact and wherein the authorization granting interface comprises at least electrically conductive contact.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant and deny use of the resource.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant varying levels of authorization to use of the resource.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant varying levels of use of the resource.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is fixedly coupled to the device.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is fixedly coupled to the resource.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to receive authorization input from a prospective user comprising a person.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to receive authorization input from a prospective user comprising a device.

22. (Previously Presented) A consumable resource access control unit comprising:

a consumable resource; and

an authorization granting interface coupled to the consumable resource and configured based upon authorized users of the resource, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to remain coupled to unused portions of the consumable resource upon withdrawal of the unused portions of the consumable resource from the image forming device.

23. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22 including a cartridge containing the consumable resource, wherein the authorization granting interface is coupled to the cartridge.

24. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22, wherein the consumable resource comprises a printing material.

25. (Original) The control unit of Claim 24, wherein the printing material is selected from a group including toner and ink.

26. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22, wherein the consumable resource comprises a print medium.

27. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22 including a memory coupled to the consumable resource and in communication with the authorization granting interface, wherein the memory stores authorized user data.

28. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22 including a programmable medium coupled to the cartridge and providing the authorization data.

29. (Previously Presented) The control unit of Claim 22 including a chamber containing the consumable resource and a code coupled to the chamber and configured to be read by an optical scanning device, the code providing the authorization data.

30. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant and deny use of the resource.

31. (Original) The control unit of Claim 30, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant varying levels of authorization to use of the resource.

32. (Previously Presented) The control unit of Claim 22, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant varying non-zero levels of use of the resource.

33. (Original) The control unit of Claim 22 including a processor.

34. (Previously Presented) An image-forming device comprising:
a printing mechanism configured to print images;
a dock configured to removably receive a cartridge containing a consumable resource for use by the device to form a product having a printed image;
a user interface configured to receive an identity of a person;
a sensor configured to identify authorization data associated with the cartridge, the authorization data comprising identification of persons or groups of persons and portions of the consumable resource allotted to each person or groups of persons; and
a controller configured to limit use of the resource by the device based upon identified authorization data associated with the cartridge, wherein the controller is configured to permit use of a predetermined portion of the resource by the device based upon a comparison of identified authorization data associated with the cartridge and the identity of the person received by the user interface.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Original) The device of Claim 34, wherein the dock is configured to receive a cartridge containing toner and wherein the print mechanism includes a photoconductive drum.

38. (Original) The device of Claim 34, wherein the dock is configured to receive a cartridge containing a fluid and wherein the print mechanism includes a fluid dispensing printhead.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) The device of Claim 34, wherein the controller is configured to prevent any use of the resource by individuals not included in the authorization data.

42. (Original) The device of Claim 34 including a notification mechanism configured to notify unauthorized individuals that they are not authorized to use the resource.

43. (Original) The device of Claim 42, wherein the notification mechanism includes a visual display.

44. (Original) The device of Claim 34 including a user interface configured to receive authorization identification from a user requesting the use of the consumable resource.

45. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a consumable resource adapted for use in an image forming device; and

means associated with the resource for identifying authorized users of the resource to the image-forming device and for remaining associated with the consumable resource upon withdrawal of unused portions of the consumable resource from the image forming device.

46. (Original) A method for limiting use of a consumable resource for an image-forming device, the method comprising:

coupling authorization data identifying authorized users of the resource to the resource.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 46 including:

coupling the resource to the image-forming device;

sensing the authorization data; and

limiting use of the resource by the device based upon the sensed authorization data.

48. (Original) The method of Claim 47, wherein limiting use of the resource includes preventing any use of the resource by an individual not included in the authorization data.

49. (Original) The method of Claim 47 including notifying unauthorized individuals that they are not authorized to use the resource.

50. (Original) The method of Claim 47, wherein coupling authorization data to the resource includes recording the authorization data upon a memory coupled to the consumable resource.

51. (Original) The method of Claim 47, wherein coupling authorization data includes coupling an optically readable code for providing the authorization data to the consumable resource.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the authorization granting interface identifies a person who is authorized to use the resource.

55. (Previously Presented) The control unit of claim 22 wherein the authorization granting interface identifies a person who is authorized to use the resource.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant a first authorization level in which use of the resource by a first user is denied, a second authorization level in which a second user is granted a first extent of rights to use the resource and a third authorization level in which a third user is granted a second extent of rights, different than the first extent of rights, to use the resource.

57. (Previously Presented) The control unit of claim 22, wherein the authorization granting interface is configured to grant a first authorization level in which use of the resource by a first user is denied, a second authorization level in which a second user is granted a first extent of rights to use the resource and a third authorization level in which a third user is granted a second extent of rights, different than the first extent of rights, to use the resource.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to allow limited non-zero use of the first consumable resource in the image forming device.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to prevent the prospective user from using the first consumable resource in the image forming device based on input of a first authorization input and interaction with the granting device by the first prospective user, wherein the processor is configured to allow the prospective user to use a second consumable resource in the image forming device based upon input of the first authorization input and interaction with the granting device by the first prospective user.

60. (Previously Resented) The device of claim 34, wherein the predetermined portion is less than all of the resource contained in the cartridge.

61. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to determine if the prospective user is authorized to use the resource based upon a comparison of the authorization input and interaction with the granting interface, wherein the prospective user is authorized to use the resource if the authorization input and interaction with the granting interface satisfy a predefined relationship.

62. (New) The control unit of claim 22, wherein the authorization granting interface identifies a plurality of persons or groups of persons, each of the plurality of persons or groups of persons assigned a different extent of rights to use the resource.